

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Department of Agriculture—Forest Service

Memorandum

TO : G. W. Van Gilst, Forest Supervisor

File No. 2600

FROM : H. R. Howard, Jr., Ketchikan D.R., By

Date: October 13, 1966

SUBJECT: Wildlife - Fish flumes, Helm Creek

Your reference:

On October 10, 1966, Bud Swilling and I made an inspection trip to Helm Creek. We walked the length of the creek from salt water to the lake.

There is little or no beaver activity in the stream area at this time. At intervals along the stream bottom there is evidence that the beaver have stripped the bark from the bases of cedar trees, this probably last spring or early summer.

There are no fresh beaver dams in the creek at this time. The only dams in the creek are the two old dams in which the flumes were installed. The dam at the lake outlet is still intact and the flume is working satisfactorily. The lower dam is falling apart and the stream is going through a complete break (of 8 to 10 feet wide) in the dam. This dam presents no obstruction to passage of salmon at this time. The upper dam, though still intact, has not been maintained by the beaver; thus, holes have developed that would perhaps permit passage of salmon.

The stream has had a salmon run this fall as evident by carcasses of salmon along the banks. The stream is relatively high and this has resulted in most of the dead fish from the creek being washed into the tidal area at the mouth of the creek. A few carcasses were seen on the banks above the dam at the lake outlet. The water in the lake is too dark in color to permit visibility of any fish in the lake. Trout were present in the outlet end of the lake, 8 to 10 inch fish would take cranberries tossed into the water.

It will not be possible to determine with certainty the effectiveness of the flumes as far as this years run of fish is concerned.

The beaver population has evidently moved into the areas around the lake, evidence at present indicates that this population is very limited.

Harold A. Field

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Memorandum

Department of Agriculture—Forest Service

Region 10, P. O. Box 1631

Juneau, Alaska 99801

TO : Forest Supervisor, South Tongass N.F.

File No. 2630

FROM : John B. Smith, Assistant Regional Forester
Division of Resource Management

Date: July 8, 1966

SUBJECT: Habitat (Helm Creek Fishery Flumes)

Your reference: 2630(6/22)

Thank you for the report concerning the salmon stream improvement on Helm Creek, Cleveland Peninsula. We will be interested in reports of follow up inspections and post-construction evaluations. If the system works, the technique should be circulated among the other forests with similar beaver problems.

One thing to check carefully is the velocity of water through the flumes. If too great (above 5 to 7 feet per second), salmon and trout might not be able to swim against it. Velocities could possibly be reduced by the addition of bafflers similar to those incorporated into the Ziemer aluminum steep pass.

The ADF&G should have a copy of your report.

WLSheridan/kl

John B. Smith